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State of Connecticut

MESSAGE

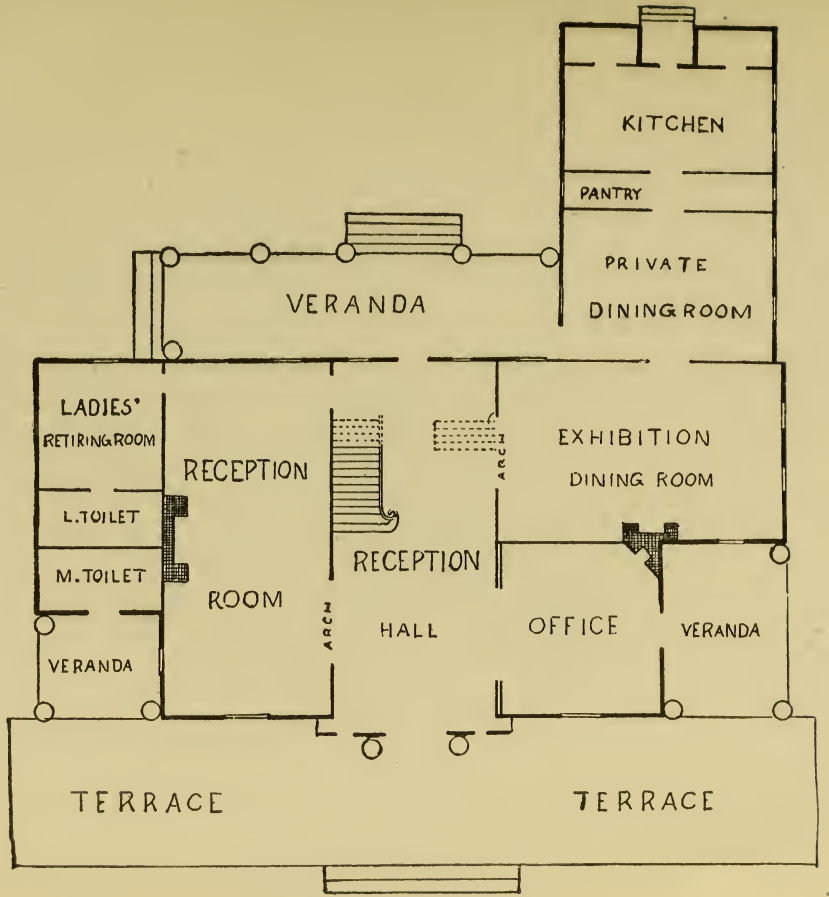
FROM

HIS EXCELLENCY
GOV. ROLLIN S. WOODRUFF

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RELATING TO THE JAMESTOWN TER-CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION; TRANSMITTING REPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION.



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR

CONNECTICUT STATE BUILDING

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The following message was sent to the General Assembly and ordered printed for use of Members of the Assembly:

Hartford, January 22, 1907.

To the Honorable General Assembly:

I transmit herewith a report from the "Connecticut Commission for the Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition."

That exposition will open on Friday, April 26, 1907, and will close its doors on Saturday, November 30, 1907. It will commemorate the tercentennial anniversary of the first settlement by English-speaking men in America, at Jamestown, on the James River, in 1607, thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts.

The exposition will be located on a site overlooking Hampton Roads, about six miles from the city of Norfolk. The site is a delightful one, close to the sea, which makes possible an elaborate display by the United States Navy. The battleship "Connecticut," and probably a large number of other United States battleships and cruisers will be maneuvred as a fleet some time during the exposition. The precise site of the original settlement of Jamestown was not selected by the commission because it was not suitable for that purpose, it being impossible to find or provide adequate hotel accommodations, and there being only a single railroad.

In 1905 Congress made an appropriation of $250,000 for a government military and naval display during the exposition, that sum to include the expense of entertaining military and naval forces from foreign countries. And in 1906 Congress made a further appropriation of about $1,400,000

for exhibits by the various departments of the government, and as direct aid to the exposition.

In 1905 and 1906 many of the states made appropriations for state buildings and for a proper presentation of their industries. The State of Virginia appropriated $450,000; New York, $150,000; Pennsylvania, $100,000; New Jersey and Ohio $75,000 each; Maryland, $65,000; Missouri, $60,000; Rhode Island and Massachusetts $50,000 each, and the more distinctively agricultural states made lesser appropriations chiefly to instal agricultural exhibits and to erect state buildings and to pay for state ceremonials. In all, twenty-one states have participated. It is expected that several other states are not actively interested will make appropriations through their state legislatures this winter, and an estimate places the total amount of appropriations anticipated from the states at about $2,000,000. The entire cost of the Exposition is estimated at $8,000,000.

Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania and sixteen other states have contracted for state buildings and others will probably do so. Seven large buildings are being erected by the Exposition Government, averaging 300 by 500 feet. But the scope of these exhibits has been so much enlarged that already supplementary buildings are planned.

The exhibits from Connecticut, excepting those of our manufactories, which will be placed in the Manufactures and Liberal Arts building, where there is power for the operation of machinery, will be located in the State Exhibits Building, where 3500 square feet of space was given to Connecticut free of charge; and it is confidently expected that one of the most important and striking exhibits along industrial lines will be that which represents the high rank of Connecticut in the nation's industries.

The management of the exposition has carefully planned ample hotel accommodations for visitors on and near the

grounds, and additional hospitality will be available at Norfolk, Old Point Comfort, Newport News, and Portsmouth, thus ensuring the comfort of the many thousands who will visit the exposition.

President Roosevelt's invitation to participate in the naval and military display has been accepted by twenty-nine foreign nations. More than one hundred conventions of a wide range of national organizations will be held during the term of the exposition, a convention hall seating three thousand people being provided for such occasions.

President Roosevelt will formally open the exposition on April 26, and the States represented by exhibits will be represented also by their State officials. Wednesday, October sixteenth, has been selected as "Connecticut Day," and a special program of civil and military exercises has been outlined.

I would recommend that the General Assembly give careful consideration to the contents of our State Commission's report submitted herewith and follow the suggestions made therein, because I have the utmost faith in the wisdom of the members of that commission. I believe that great benefit will be received by the industries of our State that are properly represented at the exposition. The high rank that has been held by Connecticut as an industrial State must be maintained, and the Jamestown exposition will afford a most excellent and timely opportunity to press our claims for consideration upon the visitors from every State in the Union and from many foreign countries. I believe that money spent upon the State's exhibits will be found in future years to have been money well invested, and that the return therefrom will be large.

ROLLIN S. WOODRUFF,
Governor.

REPORT

OF THE

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION

FOR THE

Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition

1907

HARTFORD PRESS
The Case Lockwood & Brainard Company
1907

OFFICE OF THE

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION

FOR THE

JAMESTOWN TER-CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

HARTFORD, CONN., Jan. 9, 1907.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, ROLLIN S. WOODRUFF, GOVERNOR.

Sir:—We have the honor to report the operations of this commission, appointed by His Excellency, Governor Henry Roberts, under the provisions of Special Act No. 451, January Session 1905, entitled, "Resolution Concerning the Representation of the State at the Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition," approved July 18, 1905.

This act authorized the Governor to appoint a commission of three persons "to determine the manner in which the State of Connecticut shall be represented at said exposition." After providing for the expenses of this investigation, the act further provided, in substance, that if the commissioners were fully satisfied that the exposition was to be of such character and extent as to warrant participation by Connecticut, then the State Board of Control might, at its discretion, make available for the commission a sum not exceeding $25,000.

On August 8, 1905, His Excellency, Governor Roberts, appointed as members of the commission: Samuel A. Eddy, of North Canaan; William J. Barber, of Harwinton, and Thomas Hamilton, of Groton, who were, under the provisions of the act, to serve without compensation.

At the time of the passage of the act, the character and scope of the exposition were to a very considerable extent undetermined, even by the exposition officials who

explained the matter to the legislative committee, and it was therefore not practicable to decide upon the extent to which Connecticut should participate, nor to make a definite estimate of the amount which would be required to cover the cost of a representation of the State which should be in keeping with her historic prominence as one of the thirteen original colonies and her important position in the industrial world. The sum of $25,000 to which the Board of Control was limited, was regarded as tentative, leaving it to the wisdom of the General Assembly of 1907 to determine, in the light of later information, the amount that would be needed for appropriate representation. A similar course, it may be noted, was adopted in 1905 by several other States, whose appropriations have since been enlarged.

Promptly after their appointment, the commissioners organized, with Mr. Eddy as president, Mr. Barber as secretary, and Mr. Hamilton as treasurer, and made such investigation as was then practicable as to the prospects of the exposition, and the probable participation of other States. In 1905 the Congress appropriated $250,000 for military and naval representation by the national government at the exposition, and in January, 1906, a bill was introduced (and subsequently passed with but a single dissenting vote in either house) appropriating about $1,400,000 for enlarged representation of the governmental departments and in general aid of the exposition. Legislatures meeting in 1905 and the succeeding year made liberal appropriations, ensuring very general State representation. In view of these facts, which appeared to remove any doubt of the ultimate success of the exposition, your commission felt warranted in arranging to reach final conclusions as to whether Connecticut should join with her sister States in the celebration.

In the closing week of February, 1906, a visit to the Exposition grounds near Norfolk, Va., was made by the members of the State Board of Control, including His Excellency, Governor Roberts, the Hon. James F. Walsh, treasurer,

and the Hon. Asahel W. Mitchell, comptroller; with this commission. The outlook for the exposition was carefully investigated, and the members of the commission and of the State Board of Control were so well satisfied with the representations made and the evidences of actual progress that they unanimously decided that Connecticut would be warranted in incurring the expense of representation. An advantageous site for a State building was selected, and information was obtained as to the character of the exhibits this State would find most profitable to make, in exploiting the industries of her people. The State Board of Control, on March 28, 1906, formally passed over to the credit of the commission the amount named in the act.

Early steps were taken for the organization of the commission's work. An advisory committee was decided upon, and invitations to membership therein were accepted by the Hon. Frank L. Wilcox, of Berlin, who was president of the Connecticut Commission for the Exposition at St. Louis; Mrs. John M. Holcombe, of Hartford, who served as a member of the National Board of Lady Managers of that Exposition and also as an honorary member of the Connecticut Commission, and the Rev. Samuel Hart, of Middletown, president of the Connecticut Historical Society, whose counsel and advice on historic features was especially sought. In May, Mr. George D. Curtis, of Hartford, accepted the position of manager, charged with the duty of attending to the many details arising in connection with the State building and the classification and collection of exhibits.

The prospectus of the exposition called for not only the usual exhibits of manufactures, products of the dairy and the orchard, the tobacco field and the farm generally, with our extensive educational system, and all the other departments in which Connecticut has been so well represented at previous expositions, but, also, for very interesting classes of historical exhibits as well as exhibits in the department of social economics. Commemorative, as the exposition will be, of the ter-centennial anniversary of the founding

at Jamestown, Va., in 1607, of the first English speaking settlement in this country, thirteen years prior to the landing of the Pilgrims on the shores of New England, the program of the exposition gives unusual prominence to historical features, and Connecticut, dating back to the days of Thomas Hooker, rich in history and especially prominent in the development of constitutional liberty, finds herself well prepared to make, in this historical department, a very creditable showing. In its preparation, the commission is indebted to the State Librarian for invaluable advice and assistance.

The wide range of exhibits in the social economic department will include illustrations of the system of our legislative department; the work of several of the State commissions, including good roads plans, insurance, the State savings bank system, factory inspection methods for the protection of workmen, operation of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and, by means of photographs and reports, the buildings and the character of the service performed by institutions receiving State support — penal, reformatory, and charitable. The department of education is preparing a comprehensive exhibit of our public school system, and in close relation to this will be exhibits of our universities and colleges, and our professional and preparatory schools. The plans for the agricultural exhibits are in the hands of committees appointed by the State Board of Agriculture and allied associations, assuring satisfactory results. Arrangements have been perfected for a comprehensive exhibit of the press of the State and various other interesting features.

No other subject has engaged the attention of the commission more closely than that of the Connecticut State building. It was essential that the order of architecture be colonial, and the commission when seeking a model was fortunate in finding in ancient Litchfield a typical structure, the Colonel Talmadge house, erected just prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary struggle. The adaptation of the original plan so as to meet the requirements of a State building at the exposition was entrusted to Con-

necticut hands, the architect, Mr. E. K. Rossiter, being a resident of the section and familiar with the Colonial architecture of the State. Upon careful investigation as to the possibilities of sale to the best advantage after the close of the exposition, the commission concluded that it would be sound business policy to erect, not a building of flimsy construction adapted only to mere temporary use, but one of substantial build, which would command a fair price for private ownership in a section now fast building up with shore residences of the better class. The commission felt warranted in this course by the fact that instead of being obliged, at a sacrifice, to remove the building from the grounds, as at Chicago and St. Louis, the exposition management offered to give an option on the lot at a reasonable purchase price; thereby ensuring undisturbed possession of the building pending sale to the best advantage of the State. This option was accepted, extending to the spring of 1908.

Bids for the erection of the building were received from contractors in this State and at Norfolk, Va., some bids reaching $30,000. The contract was awarded in August last, for $18,300, to the lowest bidder, the H. Wales Lines Co., of Meriden, whose work upon the State building at St. Louis was highly satisfactory to the commission of that exposition. The building is already far advanced and will be finished by the contractors by March 1, affording ample time for the furnishing and fitting, and the preparation of the grounds before the opening day of the exposition, April 26. While costing less than several of the buildings erected by other States, it will be, in architectural attractions and substantial construction, second to none of the twenty or more expensive State buildings which are being erected along the shore line of the exposition grounds, overlooking the broad waters of Hampton Roads. The furniture will be of the Colonial type and largely of Connecticut origin.

The governing principle in the plans of the commission throughout, has been to ensure, at minimum expense, the representation of Connecticut on a scale commensurate with

not only the importance of her industrial interests, but, also, the advanced position she has held from Colonial times down to the present day in helping to make the history of this nation. When the plans of other States were outlined and liberal appropriations made by their legislatures to meet them (many of them in excess of the Connecticut appropriation), the commissioners were confident that the State pride of our people would never be satisfied to have this State take any secondary place at the exposition. The commission, therefore, prepared its plans to ensure a representation of the State befitting its population, wealth, and industrial and historical importance. These plans will call for expenditures in excess of the appropriation of $25,000 by the last General Assembly. Having in mind the law of the State, the commission, while planning to cover the field of its work effectively and for the best interest of the State, has carefully avoided involving the State, by contracts or otherwise, in excess of the definite amount which was placed to its credit.

It is estimated that the further sum of $30,000 will be necessary to cover the cost of the plans as to building, exhibits, and administration, and it is urged that this sum be made available during the present month, as a large part of the money will necessarily be expended prior to May 1. The apportionment of the sum should be: For building, $8,000; furnishing and exhibits, $17,000; administration and incidentals, $5,000. Economies which have been devised in arranging the plans and otherwise, by eliminating expensive booth construction, etc., give full promise that, with these additional funds, Connecticut will be enabled to make a satisfactory exhibit at much less expense than at previous expositions. The sale of the building, possible under far more favorable conditions than at St. Louis or Chicago, as well as the sale of furnishings, etc., ensures a very considerable return.

In addition to the items named above some provision should be made for participation on the part of the state in the ceremonials connected with the opening day, April 26, and an

appropriate observance of October 16, which has been set apart as "Connecticut Day."

For these ceremonials we estimate that $15,000 can be properly used and we recommend that this amount be appropriated for this purpose, to be expended at the discretion of his Excellency the Governor.

In conclusion, your commission, having in view the extent and character of the exposition, the assured large general attendance, and the convenient distance and light expense of attendance from this State, is satisfied that the outlay is warranted, and that with the amount named Connecticut will be represented in a manner befitting the prominence she has always maintained among her sister States.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel A. Eddy,
William J. Barber,
Thomas Hamilton.

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